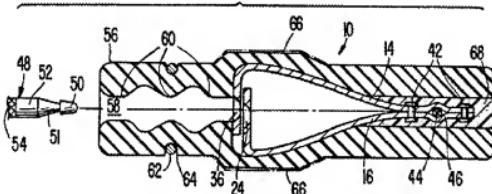


REMARKS

I. Rejections Under 35 USC § 102

Claims 1, 3-17, 19-33 and 35-48 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,275,620 to Darby et al. ("Darby"). The rejection is based on the disclosure in Fig. 5 of Darby, which is as follows:

FIG. 5



The whole orientation of the resilient connector that grasps the electrode tip 48 is different from the structure set forth in independent claims 1, 17, and 33. As shown in Fig. 5, the orientation of the connector clip of the Darby connector assembly is aligned along the axis of insertion of the electrode tip. In contrast, the connector clip of the connector assembly recited in the claims is aligned perpendicular to the axis of insertion of the lead proximal end. To better point out this distinction, the independent claims have been amended to set forth the orientation of the connector clip relative to the connector port of a connector block into which the proximal end of a lead is inserted. More particularly, the orientation of the connector clip is established with respect to the axis of insertion of the lead proximal end.

As seen in Fig. 5 of Darby, only the overlapping ends (faces 18 and 30) of the arms 12 and 14 are perpendicular to the axis of insertion of electrode tip 48. The connector clip of Darby is essentially "lying down on its side" orientation. The amended claims specify that the housing is mounted within the connector block such that the aperture of the housing is aligned with the connector port of the

connector block to permit passage of the lead proximal end through it along the insertion axis upon lead insertion. Further, the connector clip is enclosed within the housing in an orientation that establishes it to be perpendicular to the insertion axis such that the arms, the non-overlapping ends of the arms, and the top portion together circumscribe an opening in alignment with the housing aperture through which the proximal end of a lead passes during insertion. The amended recitation essentially orients the connector clip in a "standing up" orientation relative the axis of insertion of the lead proximal end. See Figs. 2 and 4 as follows:

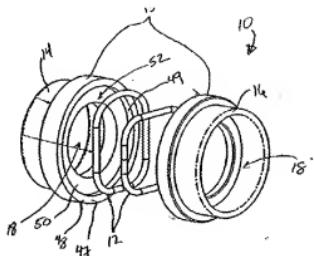


Fig. 2

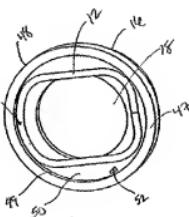


Fig. 4

In view of the amended claims, Darby cannot be said to anticipate or render obvious the subject matter of the pending claims.

II. Conclusion

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney to attend to these matters.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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